

ODP-81-382
24 March 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Information Handling Systems Architect
Chairman, Agency-wide Committee on Software
Engineering Standards
DDO ADP Control Officer
NPIC ADP Control Officer
OC ADP Control Officer
OD&E ADP Control Officer
Deputy Director for Applications, ODP
Deputy Director for Processing, ODP
Chief, Special Projects Staff, ODP
Chief, Engineering Division, ODP

FROM :
Chief, Management Staff, ODP

SUBJECT : Specification of a Draft Message Format
Standard

1. Attached for your review is a report entitled "Specification of a Draft Message Format Standard." This report contains draft technical specifications of a planned standard for the format and content of messages exchanged using computer-based message systems.

2. The National Bureau of Standards, Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, plans to propose this electronic message format standard as a Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) in 1981. We request your comments concerning the impact and applicability of this planned standard. I have attached a copy of the Federal Register announcement which details the information desired.

3. In order to provide a consolidated Agency response by 13 April 1981, we ask that you submit comments by 9 April. Please accept our apologies for the limited amount of time provided for your response, but it is necessitated by our late receipt of the NBS request and their own tight deadline.



Attachments: a/s

WFO - NBS - draft report. Is in subj. file

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**Solicitation of Comments on the
Impact and Applicability of a Planned
Message Format Standard**

Under the provisions of Public Law 89-306 (79 Stat. 1127; 40 U.S.C. 759(f)) and Executive Order 11717 (38 FR 12315, dated May 11, 1973), the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to establish uniform automatic data processing (ADP) standards. The National Bureau of Standards (NBS) plans to propose an electronic message format standard as a Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) in 1981. The draft technical specifications of this planned standard are available for review from the National Bureau of Standards, Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, Standards Administration Office, Washington, D.C. 20234.

NBS is requesting comments on this planned standard and is particularly interested in the following items:

1. The impact of implementing this planned electronic message format standard.

Data is solicited on the effort required to implement this planned standard within existing systems through retrofitting and also within planned systems.

2. The applicability of this planned standard.

The objectives of the standard are to provide interoperability among Federal systems and networks that support electronic message systems and maximize opportunities for the competitive acquisition of the components of such systems. Comments are requested on specific applicability statements, consistent with these objectives, which may be included in the standard.

3. Time period required to conform to this planned standard.

Comments are solicited on the amount of time which should be allowed for conformance to the planned standard; that is, how much time should be allowed after the FIPS has been issued until applicable systems and networks are required to conform.

Comments should be provided in writing by (please insert date which is 60 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register) to the following address: National Bureau of Standards, Director, Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, Administration Building, Room A200, Washington, D.C. 20234, ATTN: Planned Message Format Standard.

For additional information contact: Robert P. Blanc, Chief, Systems and Network Architecture Division, Building 225, Room B218, Washington, D.C. 20234, (301) 921-3817.

Ernest Ambler,

Director.

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